



Research Data Centre (FDZ)
of the German Federal
Employment Agency (BA)
at the Institute for
Employment Research (IAB)

Virtual Research Environments (VREs) to enable access to confidential data for scientific purposes

Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session
on Statistical Data Confidentiality
Statistics Finland

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David Schiller

Introduction / Outline

- Modern research in the Social Sciences needs active support by underlying infrastructures
- The development line goes from
 - Research Environments to
 - Virtual Research Environments (VRE) to
 - secure Virtual Research Environments (secureVRE)
- Success of such initiatives is based on networks of experts and institutions
- More collaboration is needed

Characteristics of future research projects

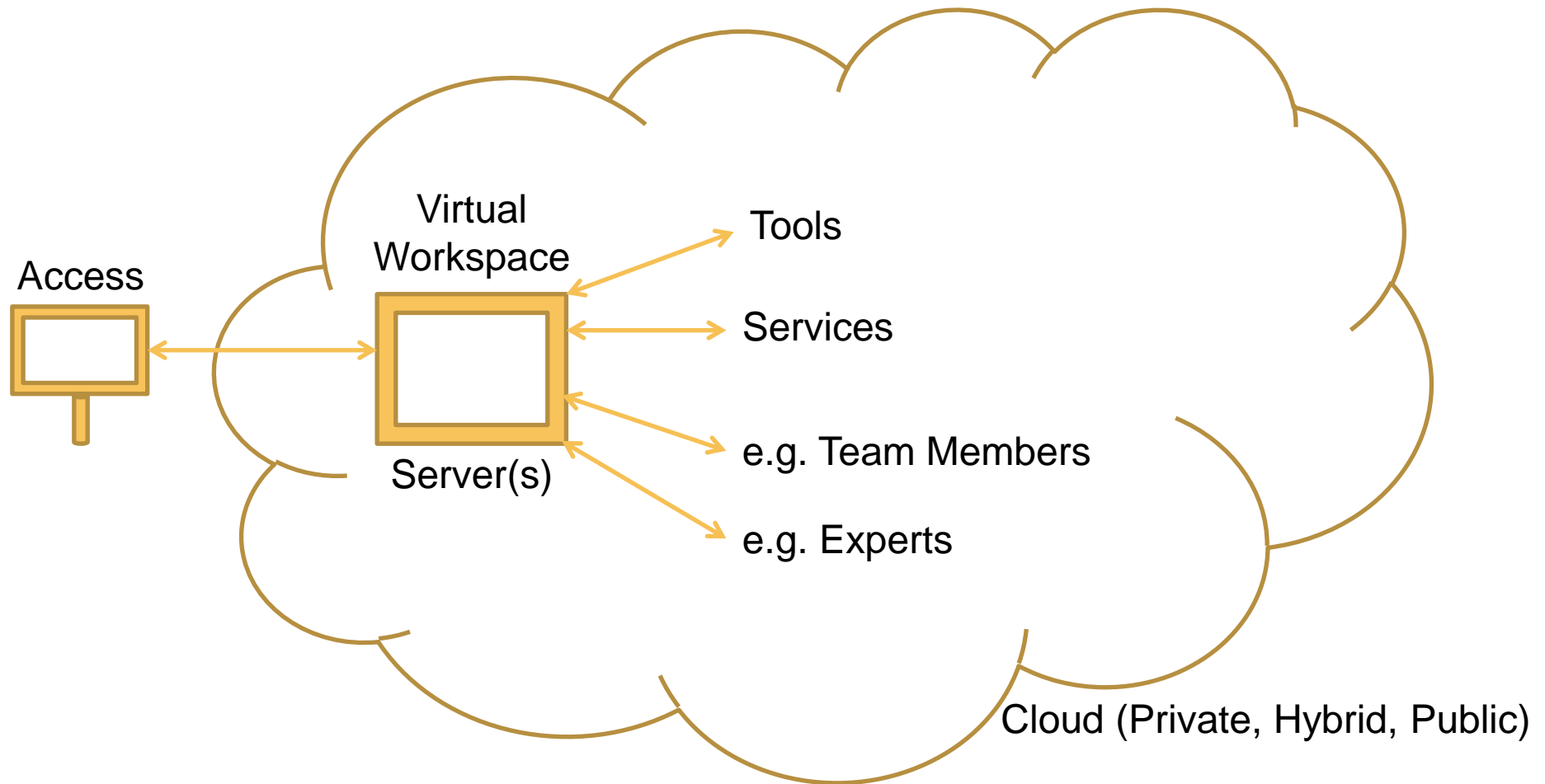
- Project Team members in different locations
- Research Data in different locations
- Concentrate on the topic not on borders
- Force useful interdisciplinary cooperation
- Work in an international network of experts
- Re-use data and search for new data sources
- Rely on good data documentation
- Need clear data access procedures

Research Environments

- Physical Environment
 - hardware, and other specific equipment needed
 - unique databases, samples, bio-banks
 - specialised literature, user manuals, guidelines

- Intellectual Environment
 - Project Partners as the core research group
 - Research Network for support in specific topics
 - Advisor to provide high-quality expertise and guidance

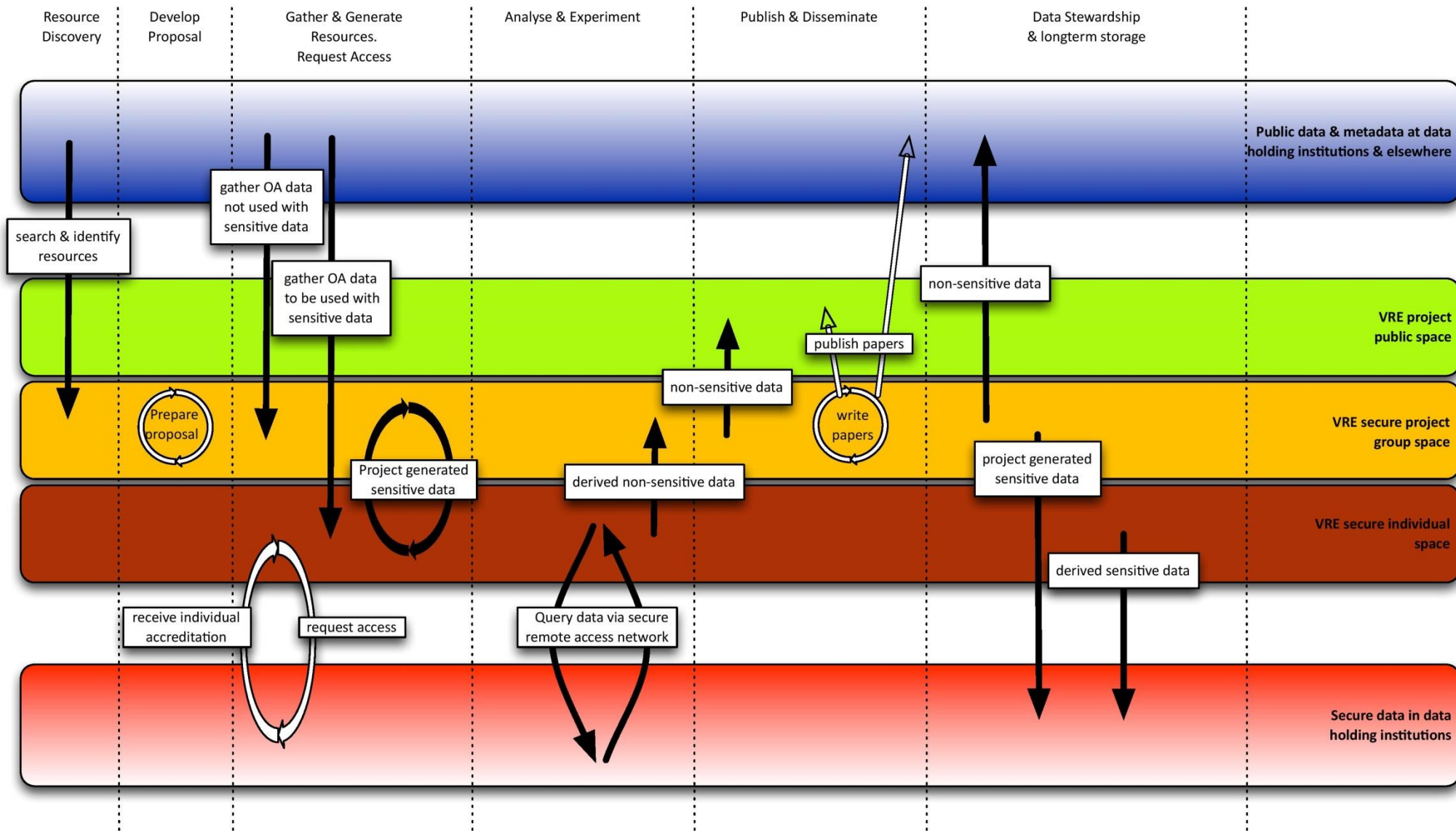
Virtual Research Environment



secureVRE architecture

Key features:

- Add security to the VRE architecture
- Support the complete research project life-cycle
- Rely on interfaces



Conclusion and Outlook

- Future needs in Social Science research can be meet by modern infrastructures
- Need to develop them as networks
- Era of silos needs to be brought to an end
- More network activities needed
- General openness for other approaches
- Longterm funding strategies are needed
- secureVRE the RDC for the future of Research



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<http://fdz.iab.de>

David Schiller
Regensburger Straße 100
90478 Nuremberg
Germany
+49 911 179 8381
david.schiller@iab.de